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- 1. A method for assigning a telephone number to a communications device or line comprising the steps of:
 - A) assigning a unique equipment identifier to the communications device or line;
 - B) associating the unique equipment identifier with a telecommunications network such that an outgoing call may be originated from the communications device or line that has the unique equipment identifier; and
 - c) omitting association of a telephone number with the unique equipment identifier, thereby inhibiting incoming calls to the communications device or line by lack of a telephone number being associated therewith.

- 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of :
 - associating a currently assigned telephone number with the communications device or line for billing.
- 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
 - D) associating a currently assigned telephone number with the communications device or line for maintenance on the communications device or line.

4. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

- associating a currently assigned telephone number with the communications line or device for automatic number identification.
- 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

D) associating a currently assigned telephone number with the communications line or device for purposes other than receiving an incoming telephone call.

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- 6. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
 - D) associating a currently assigned telephone number with the communications line or device for calling number identification.
- 7. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
 - D) temporarily assigning an unassigned telephone number to the communications device or line in response to a request for a temporary telephone number

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- 8. The method of claim 7 wherein the request for a temporary telephone number is initiated by a telephone call.
- 9. The method of claim 1 wherein the communications device is a wireless telephone.
- 10. The method of claim 7 wherein the unassigned telephone number is assigned for a predetermined period of time.

14. A communications device comprising:

a memory storing a unique equipment identifier, the equipment identifier uniquely identifying a communications device or line, wherein no incoming call is receivable and outgoing calls are operably placed using the communications device or line based on the equipment identifier, and wherein no telephone number is associated the communications device or line for the purpose of receiving incoming calls.

12. A telecommunications switch comprising:

a plurality of lines for outgoing and incoming telephone calls; a memory associated with each line of the plurality of lines; the memory storing an equipment identifier used to communicate with

5 each line; and

wherein at least one of the plurality of lines has no assigned telephone number for receiving incoming calls and has a capability to originate outgoing calls.

13. A method for temporarily assigning a telephone number to a communications device or line, the method comprising the steps of:

- A) receiving a request for a temporary telephone number;
- (B) checking a database for available temporary telephone numbers;
- c) selecting an available temporary telephone number from the database;
- D) making the available temporary telephone number unavailable in the database;
 - E) associating the available temporary telephone number with a communications device or line such that the communications device or line may receive incoming telephone calls;
 - F) after a predetermined period of time, removing association of the available temporary number with the communications device or line such that incoming calls to the available temporary telephone number do not result in an incoming call to the communications device or line.
- 14. The method of claim 13 further comprising the step of:
 - G) after the predetermined period of time, making the available temporary telephone number available in the database.
- 15. The method of claim 13 wherein the request for a temporary telephone number is made by one of a telephone call, internet connection and email.

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- 16. The method of claim 13 wherein the request for a temporary telephone number includes the predetermined period of time.
- 17. The method of claim 13 wherein the step of associating the available temporary telephone number with a communications device or line further comprises associating the available temporary telephone number with a unique equipment identifier.

18. The method of claim 13 wherein the step of making the available temporary telephone number unavailable in the database further comprises providing the temporary available telephone number to an originator of the request for a temporary telephone number.

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